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William Wesley Boak

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fortunate in business enterprises. He became a member of the Board of Trustees of his Alma Mater, to which he gave \$25,000. He was widely distinguished as a Republican orator and writer. His last public service was as a member of the U. S. commission for the establishment of a new government in Porto Rico.

WILLIAM WESLEY BOAK was born in Berkley county, Virginia, August 21, 1825; he died at Webster City, Iowa, March 5, 1901. His father came west in 1836, stopping first at Georgetown, Illinois, but the next year continuing his journey to Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, where he made a permanent settlement. In 1852 the subject of this notice crossed the plains with an ox team to California. He returned to Iowa in 1854, and settled on a farm two miles northwest of Webster City. He was, therefore, one of the pioneers of Hamilton county and went through all the privations and vicissitudes of frontier life. Always reliable in his business engagements, an industrious, prudent and successful farmer, he became well known in county affairs. He served long on the township school board, and was for eight years a county supervisor, beginning with the introduction of that system in January, 1861. He was several times chairman of the board.

LEWIS WHITMAN TUBBS was born in Binghampton, New York, January 24, 1826; he died at Emerson, Iowa, February 28, 1901. He was one of the Argonauts of '49, having crossed the plains to California with an ox train that year. He spent some time in mining, with but moderate success, and when the State was admitted in 1850, he was elected to the legislature from his district. After some time devoted to mercantile and mining pursuits, he returned to "the States" and took up his residence for a time in Michigan. In 1854 he came to Iowa and settled at Emerson, Mills county, where he afterwards resided. He held the office of county judge from 1858 to 1860. In 1861 he raised an infantry company which was retained at home as minute men to keep back the Missouri raiders. The company, however, was never called out. He was prominent in the Masonic order of which he had been a member for half a century.

JAMES A. POOR was born at Pawlet, Vermont, November 11, 1836; he died at Independence, Iowa, January 10, 1901. When the war of the rebellion came on he enlisted in Co. C, 27th Iowa Infantry, and served during the war. At its close he returned to Independence, where he afterwards resided. He was elected treasurer of the county, which office he held twenty-seven years, an unprecedented record in this State. He managed the office with such rare ability, and his services were so satisfactory to the people that he was, with one accord, kept in that position. Hon. W. G. Donnan, who served with him in the 27th Infantry, paid a high tribute in *The Bulletin-Journal* of Independence to his efficiency as a soldier and an officer. That paper devoted three columns to a biographical sketch of Mr. Poor, which was accompanied by a fine portrait.

JOHN RAMSDELL was born at Salem, Massachusetts, January 1, 1816; he died at Tama, Iowa, March 5, 1901. In his youth and early manhood he was a sailor. Settling in Tama county in 1863, he assisted in organizing the township where he resided, and was the second county superintendent of schools. During his term he issued a certificate to Hon. James Wilson, present Secretary of Agriculture, authorizing him to teach in the public schools. He has been prominent in business circles in that county—as a director in the First National Bank, one of the organizers and president of the Tama Paper Company, and one of the directors of the Tama Water Power Company. He also filled the office of mayor of Tama City. He was a scholarly and cultured gentleman with decidedly literary tastes.

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